



NEWS RELEASE

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MARCH 2, 2005

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HARRISONVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTING DATE RAPE DRUG

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Harrisonville, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute GHB, an illegal date rape drug.

Today's guilty plea, Graves explained, is part of the nationwide Operation Webslinger investigation that targeted the illegal Internet trafficking of date rape drugs.

Paul Lee Schleicher, 31, of Harrisonville, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning conspiracy to manufacture and distribute gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB).

By pleading guilty, **Schleicher** admitted that he conspired with others to manufacture and distribute GHB between June 1, 2001, and Sept. 18, 2002.

GHB is odorless and colorless and can be dissolved in beverages. If consumed, it can cause drowsiness, dizziness, loss of consciousness and loss of inhibition, Graves said.

Schleicher was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 1, 2004, in Kansas City.

Under federal statutes, **Schleicher** could be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$1 million fine.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow